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TURKEY.

Sanitary report from Constantinople.

[Report No. 228.]

CASE OF BUBONIC PLAGUE OFF BEYRUT.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *September 21, 1899.*

SIR: The 8th instant the French liner *Equateur*, coming from Alexandria, arrived at Beyrut, having among the passengers a plague case. The number of passengers embarked in Alexandria was 65, all of them enjoying apparently good health, not excepting the young man who fell ill and died from the bubonic plague. I forward a copy in French of the telegram sent by Dr. Vouros, the sanitary physician at Beyrut, in which he gives all the details of said plague manifestation on board the *Equateur*. The passage from Alexandria to Beyrut by steamship is thirty-six hours. Stringent orders have been sent from the sanitary board to incinerate the belongings of the patient, to wash with disinfecting liquids the hands and feet, as well as the face, of all the passengers, and disinfect by the disinfecting furnace the bedding and wearing apparel of passengers and crew. Dr. Vouros did not let said patient land at once at the lazaretto, this being under very imperfect conditions. In fact he wired, under date of the 10th instant: "Installation des passagers au lazaret dans conditions formulées impossible; il n'ya que 2 campements libres contigus dont l'un réservé pour passagers qu'arriveront demain par bateau Kechivich." I have several times laid stress in my previous reports on the very imperfect conditions of the lazaretto of Beyrut. In consequence of the orders he received he let land all the passengers of the *Equateur*, including the plague patient, who died the 10th instant. The corpse has been enveloped with a linen soaked in a solution of corrosive sublimate 3 per cent, and buried between two strata of lime two meters deep.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAZARETTO AT STAMPALIA HASTENED.

As a consequence of the above-mentioned imperfect condition of the lazaretto of Beyrut the superior council of health has decided to accelerate the establishment of the lazaretto on the island of Stampalia, as I have already written in my last report. It has been decided to build 7 houses, 2 of which will shelter the officials and the others will shelter the passengers who are undergoing quarantine. One of said houses will be the hospital of the lazaretto. Said houses will be timbered and plastered and the flooring will be made with *tichor* for ease and thorough disinfection. A Geneste and Hirscher disinfecting furnace will be purchased in Paris and installed in Stampalia. Meanwhile, before the disinfecting furnace is purchased and installed, the disinfection of the passengers who undergo quarantine will be made on board the *Burhanedin*, a pontoon, on which a disinfecting furnace is installed. Said pontoon, the *Burhanedin*, will be tugged from Cavak, in the upper Bosphorus, to Stampalia. This hasty installation of the lazaretto at Stampalia will cost nearly 1,500 Turkish liras, to which 140 have to be added for the tugging of the *Burhanedin*. That makes \$8,000 or \$9,000. At the last sitting of the sanitary commission it was communicated that the governor-general of the Turkish Archipelago, among the islands of which is Stampalia, objects to the building of the lazaretto in said island

the inhabitants of which protest against such establishment. There are 4,000 or 5,000 inhabitants dwelling in 3,000 or 3,500 houses—said inhabitants are shepherds. The governor-general says that the water springs are at a distance of 12 kilometers from the place where the lazaretto is to be built, and finally he states the victualling of the lazaretto will be very difficult on account of the distance of Stampalia from the other islands. I do not believe that said objections will stop the establishment of the lazaretto. The lazaretto of Beyrut is a real danger to that town as well as to all the Province of Syria in spite of the stringent steps taken for the thorough isolation of said lazaretto from the city of Beyrut. It is a fact that lazarettos like fortresses are there in order to defend the country from epidemics. It is not the fortresses but the citizens' breasts that can defend the country. It is the application of the rules of hygiene that can defend the country against the epidemics. We must not forget leakages and sanitary smuggling. Unhappily neither the cities nor the inhabitants follow the requirements of hygiene. However, the establishment of the lazaretto at Stampalia is a great step for the prevention of the plague epidemic in Turkey.

BUBONIC PLAGUE IN ALEXANDRIA.

More than fifteen days have elapsed during which no bubonic plague cases have been registered in Alexandria. The bubonic plague case on board the *Equateur*, as well as that which occurred on board an Italian steamship bound for Italy, is not taken, it seems, into consideration. The Egyptian sanitary authorities have decided not to take any more sanitary steps on the departure of the ships from Alexandria, and deliver to them a clean bill of health. As a consequence of said decision of the Egyptian sanitary authorities, it was decided at the last sitting of the superior council of health to maintain all the quarantine steps against the ships and passengers coming from the Egyptian ports, and the Ottoman sanitary officials will be instructed to be more vigilant and careful now than they were before. I forward a French copy of the decision concerning the maintenance of the ten days' quarantine.

APPLICATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE SANITARY CONFERENCE OF VENICE IN THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.

Dr. Duca, the Ottoman sanitary representative, reports that the decisions of the sanitary conference of Venice are differently executed in the different countries. In France, for instance, ships arriving from Egypt receive free pratique after a medical examination of the passengers and crew and after disinfection of their dirty wearing apparel. The passage from Alexandria to Marseilles is four and one-half days. The passengers receive a sanitary passport and are watched during two days. In Italy, ships coming from Alexandria do not receive free pratique until ten days elapse from the date of the departure and after a medical examination of the passengers and crew as well as the disinfection of their dirty wearing apparel.

In Austria and Hungary, ships have to complete seven days in a lazaretto, including the days of the passage. Free pratique* is given after the passengers and crew are examined by the sanitary physician, and after their dirty wearing apparel is disinfected. In Egypt, steamships receive free pratique when the passage has lasted ten days. Disinfection is not compulsory. Said disinfection was never made, though the Ottoman sanitary representative had so claimed.

MORTALITY IN ALEXANDRIA.

The number of deaths registered in Alexandria from April 2 to September 16, was in 1898, 2,802, and during the same period this year is 5,141.

SANITARY CONDITION OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND TURKISH PROVINCES.

The sanitary news from the Turkish provinces is good; I say the same for the city of Constantinople, where, from the 4th to the 18th instant, 399 deaths have been registered. Of these, 1 was from measles, 1 from smallpox, 2 from diphtheria, 5 from typhoid fever.

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,
United States Sanitary Commissioner.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure No. 1.—Translated in this Bureau from official copy.]

Circular telegrams to health offices.

(a) September 6, 1899: By decision of the superior council of health pilgrim vessels arriving from Ceylon at any port of the Ottoman Empire shall be subject to the requirements of the cholera regulations of 1867.

COZZONIS,
Inspector-General.

(b) September 6, 1899: By decision of the superior council of health, the prohibitive measures prescribed by various circulars relative to arrivals from Egypt are equally applicable to arrivals from Portugal.

COZZONIS,
Inspector-General.

(c) September 20, 1899: By decision of the superior council of health, the measures promulgated in Turkey against arrivals from Egypt are to be maintained integrally, notwithstanding the clean bill of health presented to the masters by Egyptian sanitary authorities.

COZZONIS,
Inspector-General.

Inclosure No. 2.]

Epizootic bulletin.

TREBIZONDE, August 15, 1899: The bovine plague which prevailed in the vicinity of Surméné and Off has entirely disappeared. Anthrax has just appeared among the cattle of Ergali.

SALONICA, August 27, 1899: Stomachic anthrax has appeared among cattle in this vicinity.

MERSINE, August 24, 1899: Some cases of bovine plague and contagious pneumonia have appeared among goats in this vicinity. Bovine plague exists in 3 villages of the Kaza of Tarsus. Anthrax fever has appeared among sheep and goats in the village of Kassab-Viamil.

TRIPOLI IN SYRIA, July 20, 1899: Bovine plague has prevailed severely at Akar, Hossoun, and Saftia. The disease tends to spread rapidly from village to village.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 26, 1899: Some cases of glanders have been reported in the following-named quarters of the city: Galata, Emin-Onou, and Kiat-Hane.

CONSTANTINOPLE, September 23, 1899.

FOREIGN STATISTICAL REPORTS.

CANADA—*Quebec—Sherbrooke.*—Month of September, 1899. Estimated population, 10,760. Total number of deaths, 16. No contagious diseases.

GERMANY—*Glauchau.*—Month of August, 1899. Estimated population, 27,000. Total number of deaths, 65, including measles, 1; whooping cough, 2. and 2 from phthisis pulmonalis.